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CRM SESSIONS IN PARIS

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INTRODUCTION: Although the Moscow radio has not yet mounted a full-scale propaganda campaign devoted to the current CRM Conference, the last few days have produced more frequent Soviet commentaries about related subjects than has previously been the case. During 1-2 June at least five relevant commentaries have appeared. Concentrating on no single issue, however, they range from criticisms of the Western proposals for the unity of Germany, through attacks on the Western refusal to hear the German Peoples Congress delegation, to charges the Western Powers are hampering inter-zonal trade. Soviet-controlled German radios also devote a fair amount of attention to the Conference and related issues. While generally following Moscow's line, one commentator interjects the warning that "Berlin will never take on the part formerly assigned to Shanghai. ... The inglorious end of the Western Powers' role in Shanghai should give them serious food for thought." The Satellite radios have issued relatively few independent comments about the Conference. As do Moscow and the Soviet-controlled German radios, they report fully on Vishinsky's speeches. One Hungarian commentator, however, holds out hope of a "limited agreement"; and another includes Congressional postponement of the Atlantic Pact debates among the factors that "prompt the Western press to proclaim the possibility of a limited economic agreement among the Four Powers."

GERMAN UNITY, THE WESTERN PROPOSALS, AND MILITARISM: The familiar Soviet arguments about German "unity" remain a constant element in Soviet and Soviet-controlled German criticisms of the Western proposals on the subject. In addition, there appears to be a slight tendency to return to the old charge, hitherto soft-pedalled during the current Conference, that Western policy envisages a militarized Germany aimed at the Soviet Union and the New Democracies. A widely distributed Soviet commentary by Leontyev, for example, claims that the Western proposals "are hailed by the militarist elements in Germany who talk quite openly of revenge and another war"; he also refers to the "failure to democratize Western Germany where the chauvinistic and militaristic elements are raising their heads." Another commentator, Vinogradov, attacks British M.P. Harold Macmillan, former British Air Minister, for

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allegedly proposing the extension of the Western Powers' military alliances to the whole of Germany and for "waving aside the possibility of settling the German problem in Paris." Then, in the same context, Vinogradov says:

"The Marshall Plan and the North Atlantic Pact are military-strategic measures aimed at launching an aggressive war against the Soviet Union and the Peoples Democracies. To draw Germany into their orbit would mean a repetition of the well-known Hitlerite policy."

A Soviet-controlled Berlin broadcast speaks of the successful popular German resistance against "the Anglo-U.S. attempts to turn the whole of Berlin into a bridgehead in the cold war against the USSR...." And a Rumanian broadcast charges that the Western proposals "are merely aimed at incorporating the Eastern Zone of Germany into the anti-Soviet and anti-democratic Trizonia...."

"OCCUPATION STATUTE OR PEACE TREATY": This is the title of a Soviet commentary beamed to Germany. The Germans are told that the Western Powers want to perpetuate the Occupation Statute and to extend it to all of Germany for the following reasons: (1) they want to keep their troops in Germany for decades; (2) they want to preserve their monopoly of the most important functions of State administration, particularly in the field of foreign trade; (3) they want to maintain their power of interfering arbitrarily in German internal affairs; (4) they want to be able to choke Germany's peace economy, to liquidate German competition, and to exploit German technical inventions "free of charge"; (5) they want to perpetuate the disruption of Germany; and (6) they desire to continue extracting huge reparations from Germany under the guise of occupation costs.

UNANIMITY OR AMERICAN DICTATORSHIP: A commentary by Dr. Lemkin constitutes the Soviet radio's most concentrated attention to the subject of unanimity. Claiming that Western sources "are trying to prove that this principle is some kind of an insidious invention of Soviet diplomacy... directed against the Western Powers," Lemkin traces the history of its use from "before the First World War when the Soviet State was not yet in existence," through the League of Nations days, to the present. Furthermore, he says, the U.S. in the past took a positive view about the unanimity principle--especially during the period after the First World War "when the U.S. was more persistent than any other country in striving to protect itself against having any sort of international organization force an unfavorable decision upon it." Currently, however, "the American attack on the unanimity principle is... an effort to substitute (for it) the... policy of American dictatorship"--an "attempt which is doomed to failure."

WESTERN REJECTION OF THE PEOPLES CONGRESS DELEGATION is frequently cited as another demonstration of Western unwillingness to heed the voice of the progressive German public. "But the German people can never be silenced. Gathered in the National Front, it will raise its voice louder than ever."

"BERLIN WILL NEVER TAKE ON THE PART FORMERLY ASSIGNED TO SHANGHAI": This is one thesis of a Soviet-controlled German broadcast which contrasts the diligent Berliners' reconstruction efforts, aided by the USSR, with the obstacles to peaceful development allegedly erected by Western policy. Otherwise, there has been relatively little comment on Berlin itself.

"POSSIBILITIES OF A LIMITED AGREEMENT": While some Satellite broadcasts speak of Western "unwillingness to come to an understanding," a Hungarian commentator expresses qualified optimism over the fact that "neither of the parties has yet struck a note which would have dispelled the possibilities of even a limited agreement." Another Hungarian broadcast attributes possible Western willingness for a "limited economic agreement" to the following factors: the "deepening American economic crisis"; the "sharpening conflict among the Western countries"; Congressional postponement of the Atlantic Pact debate; and the "power of the USSR and the masses fighting for peace."

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